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From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 11:16:26 PM
Subject: End of Day - Congressional and Intergovernmental

Congressional and Intergovernmental:

Congressional Outreach on Gold King Mine: Brent Maier shared today's update regarding the Administrator's visit to Farmington with Congressional staff in the offices of Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake and the rest of the Arizona Congressional delegation and California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein as well as Coconino County and the City of Page, AZ.

California Assemblymember Kevin McCarty: EPA Region IX was invited to participate in a Town Hall meeting hosted by Assemblymember McCarty in Rio Linda taking place tonight from 6:00pm – 7:30pm on the subject of Safe Drinking Water and the issue of chromium 6 groundwater contamination near the former McClellan Air Force Base. Superfund Division's Harold Ball and Charnjit Bhullar will be representing EPA Region IX along with representatives from the Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District; the State Water Resources Control Board, the Air Force, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Following the presentations, there will be a question and answer session for the community attendees.

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-1): In follow up to a request to have an EPA Intergovernmental representative attend a meeting with the Congresswoman in Page on Friday, August, 14th, Brent Maier let Carmen Gallus, Chief of Staff for the Congresswoman know that one or both of the following EPA representatives will join the Congresswoman at the meeting on Friday with the Bill Diak, Mayor of Page and Judy Franz, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. CDR William Robberson, P.E. and/or Tom Dunkelman, Federal On-Scene Coordinator taking place from 12:15pm – 1:00pm at 5 Lake Powell Blvd, Page, AZ to hear the concerns of Page residents regarding the Gold Mine Waste Spill on Lake Powell and the community.

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-5): Brent Maier received an inquiry from Jeff Small, Legislative Director for Congressman Gosar who wanted EPA to respond to inaccurate statements in the press regarding the EPA claims process for the Gold King Mine. Brent provided Jeff with an OCIR statement that addressed this inaccurate information being mentioned in the press concerning reimbursements for damages from the Gold King Mine.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA): Brent Maier shared our Water Division's comments on a proposal sent to EPA by Caitlin Meyer in Sen. Feinstein's San Francisco Office regarding the Soda Springs Mountain Resort in California that has reached out to the Senator's office regarding their plans to use recycled water for snowmaking and asking the Senator to provide her support. Caitlin provided a two-page summary of the proposed project. Water Division's John Kemmerer and Bruce Macler reviewed the proposal and provided comments that were shared with Caitlin. The response shared indicated we're supportive of using recycled wastewater in many cases. When our views are sought on specific examples, two of our primary project-specific considerations are: 1) determining whether the level of treatment provided is adequate to ensure that there will not be elevated risks to public health or the environment from the proposed end use; and 2) determining whether the redirection of flows currently discharged to the environment will cause negative impacts, such as ecosystem impacts in streams with very low base flows, including effluent-dominated streams. In the case of the Soda Springs project, it's our view that by meeting California's Title 22 requirements, the use of this treated water for snow making will not result in elevated risks to public health or the environment. Based on our understanding of the Donner Summit Public Utility District's operations and the South Yuba River, it appears that redirecting a portion of Donner Summit's discharge to the South Yuba River during winter months will not have a negative impact on ecologic conditions in the South Yuba River. Therefore, based on our quick review of this proposal, we are supportive and believe this use of recycled water would be a beneficial, positive step.

Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA-51): Brent Maier provided information requested by Jen Maldonado regarding the different levels of EPA review for environmental assessments, environmental impact reports and environmental impact statements and the relation to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Brent also referred Ms. Maldonado to follow up with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of the Navy with regard to some constituent concerns raised to their office regarding flights by Navy aircraft flying low over populated areas in Imperial County who are complaining about noise and safety concerns.

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OCIR Call for Hot Topics for ECOS Fall 2015 Meeting: OCIR's Andrea Barbary is requesting Regional Hot Topics "bullets" for the upcoming ECOS 2015 Fall Meeting – August 31st – September 2nd in Newport, RI. OCIR is requesting shortened bullets from the earlier Hot Topics submitted for the ECOS 2015 Spring Meeting. The requested due date is Monday, August 17th.